

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2022

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by [your name, call sign and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans and English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio bulletins can be downloaded from the League website at <http://www.sarl.org.za> while the text bulletin can be downloaded from <https://sarlnwsbulletin.wordpress.com>. To join the MailChimp bulletin mailing list, send an e-mail to the SARL Secretary.

In the news today:

THE SARL SATURDAY 40 M CLUB CONTEST ON 19 FEBRUARY

THE SARL COUNCIL TO MEET ON 18 AND 19 FEBRUARY

and

THE ARRL INTERNATIONAL DX CW CONTEST NEXT WEEKEND

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

We begin this bulletin with news of two silent keys.

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of Alan Harrington, ZS1DOG at the end of November 2021 after a long illness. Alan was a long-time member of Cape Town ARC. We extend our condolences to his family and friends.

The father of the Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS), Bob Bruninga, WB4APR of Glen Burnie, Maryland, died on Monday 7 February at the age of 73. According to his daughter, Bob succumbed to cancer and the effects of COVID-19. Over the years, Bob readily shared his broad knowledge and experience in APRS and other topics in the amateur radio and electronics fields. We extend our condolences to his family and friends.

PAUSE

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

THE SARL SATURDAY 40 M CLUB CONTEST ON 19 FEBRUARY

The first of the SARL Saturday 40 m Club Contests takes place from 14:00 to 15:00 UTC on Saturday 19 February with CW, phone and digital activity. The exchange is a RS, RST or RSQ report, your Club abbreviation and your 4-character grid square. You earn 2 points for a phone QSO and 3 points for a CW and digital QSO, 2 points for each new grid square worked and 1 point

for each new Club worked. Submit your log sheet by 21:59 UTC on Thursday 24 February by e-mail to contest@sarl.org.za. Read the rules on page 60 of the 2022 Blue Book.

THE SARL COUNCIL TO MEET ON 18 AND 19 FEBRUARY

The SARL Council will meet at the National Amateur Radio Centre on Friday 18 and Saturday 19 February to look at the budget for 2022/23, the nominations for awards and trophies, the motions for the AGM, the arrangements for the AGM as well as the planning for the 2022/23 year. Council will also look at developments on the IT front and discuss the IARU Region 1 "Shaping the Future" programme. Councillors are planning to attend the West Rand Flea Market before returning home.

THE ARRL ANNOUNCES NEW WORLD WIDE DIGITAL CONTEST

The ARRL World Wide Digital Contest will debut at 18:00 UTC on Saturday 4 June and end at 23:59 UTC on Sunday 5 June 2022 with all non-RTTY modes are permitted. This will be an HF to 6-metre event, on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 and 6 metres, with single-operator and multi-single entry categories. Single-operator entries may operate for 24 hours (with off times taken in one or two breaks that are at least 60 minutes long), while MS entries may operate for the full 30 hours. Operating assistance is permitted for all operating categories.

The power categories will be QRP with 5 W transmitter output or less and Low Power with maximum 100 W PEP transmitter output. The exchange will be a station's four-character grid square designation. Stations may work each other once per band, regardless of digital mode. Participants will earn 1 point for each contact, plus 1 point for each 500 kilometres between stations. In succeeding years, the World Wide Digital Contest will take place on the first full weekend of June. Full details on the new operating event are on the ARRL website.

(Thanks to the ARRL Letter)

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THE ARRL INTERNATIONAL DX CW CONTEST NEXT WEEKEND

The ARRL International DX CW Contest runs from 00:00 UTC on Saturday 19 February to 23:59 UTC on Sunday 20 February with activity on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres. Stations in the USA and Canada must work DX, while DX stations must work stations in the 48 contiguous USA states and Canadian provinces.

The exchange for W/VE stations is a signal report and their state or province, while DX stations will send a signal report and power as a number or abbreviation. Submit your log within seven days after the event by using the web app at <http://contest-log-submission.arrl.org/>. Get the rules at www.arrl.org/arrl-dx.

THE WEST RAND BOOT SALE ON 19 FEBRUARY

The West Rand ARC will have its next boot sale on Saturday 19 February at the Clubhouse in Kroton street, Weltevreden Park. The gate will open at 10:00 for social and refreshments and traders are welcome to set up shop from 11:30 onwards. Treat yourself to a day out and enjoy the summer sun once again. To book a table or a stand, contact Phillip ZS6PVT on mobile 083 267 3835.

AMATEUR RADIO COURSE

The Boland Amateur Radio Club's 2022 amateur radio course through video conferencing runs from 12 February to 14 May with the RAE exam on Saturday 21 May 2022. Contact Jannie Kirsten, ZS1JFK on e-mail zs1jfk@gmail.com for more information. Examination centres are registered in Bellville / Parow and in Stellenbosch. The practical HF assessment will take place at the Club's meeting on Saturday 26 March 2022 and at other suitable times.

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at low levels. There are currently various sunspots with simple magnetic configurations visible. There is a probability of C-class flaring. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around 50. The 10 to 30 m bands will provide some good DX fun. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

Today – the closing date for PEARS VHF/UHF Contest logs

19 February – the West Rand Boot Sale and the SARL 40 m Club Contest

19 and 20 February – the ARRL International DX CW Contest

23 February – the Sandton ARC Talking Tech Power Hour

24 February – the closing date for Club Contest Logs

27 February – International Milk Tart Day and the Sandton ARC Fox Hunt

5 March – the SARL YL QSL Party

5 and 6 March – the ARRL International DX Phone Contest

6 March – the SARL Hamnet 40 m Simulated Emergency contest

8 March – International Women's Day

10 March – the closing date for YL logs

11 March – the closing date for Hamnet logs

12 and 13 March – the SARL Field Day and the RSGB Commonwealth Contest

To conclude our bulletin, a recap of our main news story:

The first of the SARL Saturday 40 m Club Contests takes place from 14:00 to 15:00 UTC on Saturday 19 February with CW, phone and digital activity.

The exchange is a RS, RST or RSQ report, your Club abbreviation and your 4 character grid square.

This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to be included in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Friday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio programme, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 CAT. The programme can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower side-band by courtesy of Louis, ZS5LP. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY, can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 CAT on 3 620 kHz.

We welcome your signal reports, comments and suggestions; please send these by e-mail to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin written by Andy Cairns, ZS6ADY, proof-read by Dennis Green, ZS4BS and read by

From the news team, best wishes for the week ahead.